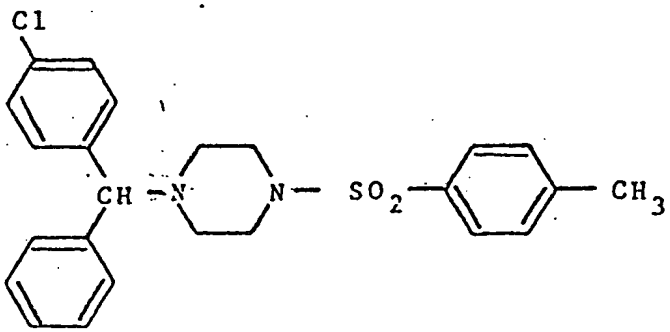
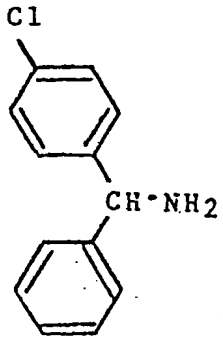
WE CLAIM:

1. The levorotatory and dextrorotatory enantiomers of 1-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]-4-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]piperazine of the formula



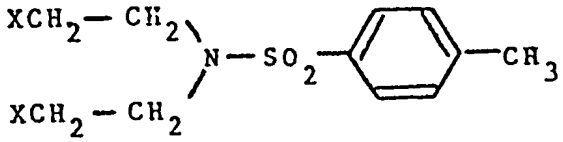
(I)

2. A process for the preparation of the levorotatory and dextrorotatory enantiomers of 1-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]-4-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]piperazine of formula I according to claim 1, which comprises reacting an enantiomer of (4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethylamine of the formula



(II)

with an N,N-diethyl-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide of the formula



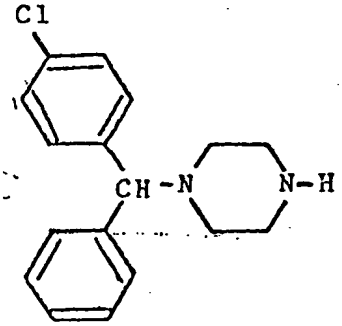
(III)

wherein X is a chlorine, bromine or iodine atom, or the (4-methylphenyl)sulfonyloxy or methylsulfonyloxy group, in the presence 2.2 to 4.4 equivalents of an organic or inorganic base per equivalent of the enantiomer of (4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethylamine and at the boiling point of the reaction mixture.

3. A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of ethyldiisopropylamine, N-ethylmorpholine, 2,4,6-trimethylpyridine, triethylamine and an alkali metal carbonate.

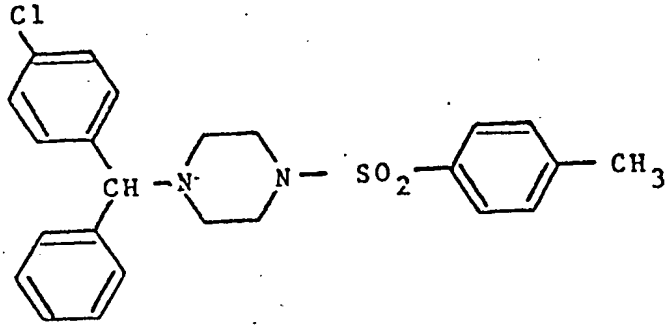
4. A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the base is ethyldiisopropylamine.

5. A process for the preparation of the levorotatory and dextrorotatory enantiomers of 1-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]piperazine of the formula



(IV)

which comprises subjecting an enantiomer of 1-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]-4-[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]piperazine of the formula

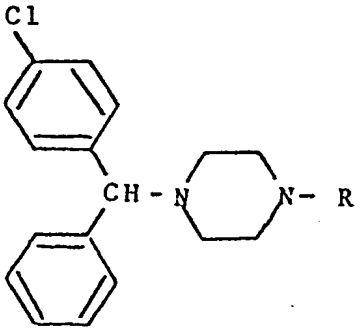


(I)

to hydrolysis with hydrobromic acid, in acetic acid medium, in the presence of a phenolic compound, and at a temperature of between 18 and 100°C.

6. A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the phenolic compound is 4-hydroxybenzoic acid.

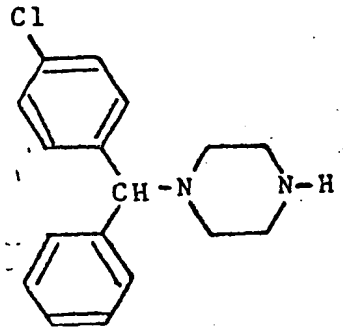
7. A process for the preparation of the levorotatory and dextrorotatory enantiomers of a 1-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]piperazine of the formula



(V)

wherein R is a methyl, (3-methylphenyl)m thyl, (4-tert-butylphenyl)methyl, 2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethyl, 2-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl, 2-

(carbamoylmethoxy)ethyl, 2-(methoxycarbonylmethoxy)ethyl or 2-(carboxymethoxy)ethyl radical, which comprises reacting an enantiomer of 1-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]piperazine of the formula



(IV)

while hot, with a halide of the formula RX

wherein R has the meaning given above and X represents a halogen atom.

8. A compound selected from the group consisting of

- the levorotatory dihydrochloride of 1-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]-4-[(3-methylphenyl)methyl]piperazine;
- the dextrorotatory dihydrochloride of 1-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]-4-[(3-methylphenyl)methyl]piperazine;
- the levorotatory dihydrochloride of 1-[(4-tert-butylphenyl)methyl]-4-[(4 chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]piperazine;
- the dextrorotatory dihydrochloride of 1-[(4-tert-butylphenyl)methyl]-4-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]piperazine;
- the levorotatory dihydrochloride of 2-[2-[4-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]-1-piperazinyl]ethoxy]ethanol;
- the dextrorotatory dihydrochloride of 2-[2-[4-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]-1-piperazinyl]ethoxy]ethanol;
- the levorotatory dihydrochloride of 2-[2-[2-[4-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]-1-piperazinyl]ethoxy]ethoxy]ethanol;
- the dextrorotatory dihydrochloride of 2-[2-[2-[4-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]-1-piperazinyl]ethoxy]ethoxy]ethanol;
- the levorotatory 2-[2-[4-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]-1-piperazinyl]ethoxy]acetamide and its dextrorotatory dihydrochloride;
- the dextrorotatory 2-[2-[4-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]-1-piperazinyl]ethoxy]acetamide and its levorotatory dihydrochloride;
- the levorotatory dimaleate of methyl 2-[2-[4-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]-1-piperazinyl]ethoxy]acetate, and
- the dextrorotatory dimaleate of methyl 2-[2-[4-[(4-chlorophenyl)phenylmethyl]-1-piperazinyl]ethoxy]acetate.